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RURAL DISTRICT OF
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1947



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RURAL DISTRICT OF
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

MR. E. G. HARVEY (*Chairman*).
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MRS. CLAUDE MEESON.
THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF NORMANTON.
MR. E. H. L. POOLE.
LADY SELBY.
MR. H. WILLITTS.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

DR. C. CONYERS MORRELL, D.P.H.
Retired (30.9.47)

D. J. N. McNAB, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Appointed 1.10.47)

(Also Medical Officer of Health of Borough of Christchurch
and an Assistant County Medical Officer for the County of
Hampshire)

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

R. A. UPSTONE, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

W. W. DYSON, Cert. R.S.I.

S. MAHER, Cert. R.S.I.

R. W. JOHNSON, Cert. R.S.I.
(Resigned 22.2.47)

**RURAL DISTRICT OF RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE.
ANNUAL REPORT
for the year 1947**

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE.

I submit for your information and consideration my first Annual Report on the health and circumstances of your district. As this was an incomplete year of office I have not attempted to cover all aspects in detail. I was appointed to succeed Dr. C. Conyers Morrell on his retiral on October 1st, 1947, and took over the smooth running machinery which he had built up since your District was first formed. Much of the information detailed in the following pages relates to work performed prior to my advent and is collated from the records left by my predecessor.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The following remarks are largely reproduced from the report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1938.

The District covers an area of 90,140 acres, or approximately 140 square miles, and includes a considerable area of the New Forest. On its north lie the Wiltshire Downs, on the west the extensive moorlands of Dorset, while on the south the District approaches within three miles of the sea, being separated from it by the coastal Borough of Christchurch. Geologically the District in the main is made up of the Eocene formation known as the Bracklesham beds and the Bagshot sands. These consist of sands and clays forming wide areas of open forest and heath. On either side of the rivers Avon and Stour are beds of aluvium. The area is largely covered with gravel and gravelly soil.

The District contains sixteen parishes, having a population of close upon 21,360 persons, about half of whom live in the two historic towns of Ringwood and of Fordingbridge, both situated on the banks of the River Avon.

Few localities offer greater facilities or more numerous attractions to lovers of Nature, and to the archaeologist or geologist; while the equable climate, warm in summer and mild in winter, attracts many persons seeking retirement where exceptional opportunities exist for golf, fishing, hunting, and other out-door recreations.

The main occupation of the population is agricultural with particular emphasis on dairy farming. Among other industries is a foundry producing motor car parts, strawberry and water cress growing, and the manufacture of a proprietary Infant food.

RAINFALL FOR 1947.		<i>ins.</i>		<i>ins.</i>
January	2.76	July	.77	
February	2.34	August	.65	
March	7.19	September	1.13	
April	2.74	October	.79	
May	1.44	November	1.83	
June	1.97	December	2.39	

TOTAL: 26 inches.

Of the total rainfall 27.6% fell in March and 47% in the first three months of the year.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

AREA. 90,140 acres.

POPULATION. Registrar-General's estimate for mid-year 1947—21,360.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES. Approximately 6,670.

RATEABLE VALUE. £137,081.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE. £580 5s. 5d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR YEAR 1947 (*as supplied by the Registrar-General*).

LIVE BIRTHS.		<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Total	.. ..	472	260	212
Legitimate	.. ..	439	243	196
Illegitimate	.. ..	33	17	16
STILL BIRTHS.				
Total	.. ..	8	6	2
Legitimate	.. ..	7	6	1
Illegitimate	.. ..	1	—	1
DEATHS.				
Total	.. ..	291	138	153
DEATHS FROM SPECIAL CAUSES.				
Cancer	.. ..	53	24	29
Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis		1	1	0
Whooping Cough		0	0	0
Measles	.. ..	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	.. ..	0	0	0
Diphtheria	.. ..	0	0	0
Enteritis	.. ..	4	1	3
(Under 2 yrs.)				
Road Traffic Acci- dents	.. ..	4	3	1
INFANT MORTALITY.				
Total	.. ..	17	7	10
Legitimate	.. ..	17	7	10
Illegitimate	.. ..	—	—	—
MATERNAL MORTALITY.				
Deaths from Mater- nal causes	.. ..	1	—	1

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH RATE.	<i>Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
per 1,000 estimated population	22.09	20.5
STILL-BIRTH RATE.		
per 1,000 population	0.37	0.50
DEATH RATE.		
per 1,000 population	13.63	12.0
INFANT MORTALITY RATE.		
(under 1 year of age)		
All causes per 1,000 live births	36	41

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE.	<i>Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District.</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
per 1,000 total (live and still) births.		
Abortion with Sepsis	0.00	0.10
Abortion without Sepsis	0.00	0.06
Puerperal infection	0.00	0.16
Other maternal causes	2.08	0.85

SPECIAL CAUSES.

Death Rare per 1,000 population		
Typhoid and paratyphoid	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.02
Diphtheria	0.00	0.01
Influenza	0.09	0.09
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.00	0.01
Enteritis (under 2 years)	8.47	5.8
per 1,000 live births		

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS

(Since the District was formed in 1932).

Year	Popu- lation	<i>Ringwood & Fordingbridge</i>			<i>England and Wales</i>		
		I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.
1932	18,400	59.8	15.4	12.6	65	15.3	12
1936	18,640	48.2	13.3	13.1	59	14.8	12.1
1940	20,430	45.1	14.1	13.2	55	14.6	14.3
1943	19,980	62.3	16.8	11.2	49	16.5	12.1
1944	19,520	25.3	16.2	12.6	46	17.6	11.6
1945	19,350	53.1	17.1	13.2	46	16.1	11.4
1946	20,440	18.6	18.4	13.5	43	19.1	11.5
1947	21,360	36	22.09	13.6	41	20.5	12

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The table shows the Notifications throughout 1947 with comparative notification rates for the whole of England and Wales.

Notifications	Number	Rate per 1,000 of the population	
		Ringwood & Fordingbridge R.D.	England and Wales
Scarlet Fever	8	0.37	1.37
Whooping Cough	24	1.12	2.22
Diphtheria	0	0.00	0.13
Erysipelas	2	0.09	0.19
Measles	112	5.24	9.41
Pneumonia	11	0.51	0.19
Poliomyelitis	11	0.51	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

The tuberculosis services throughout the County were administered by the County Council. This area is served by two dispensaries, one held weekly in the Health Centre at Christchurch, which deals with cases south of Ringwood, and the other held monthly in the child welfare Rooms, Fordingbridge, deals with Ringwood and the area north of it.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1947.

			New Cases		Deaths	
			Male	Female	Male	Female
Pulmonary .. ..	..	..	12	5	4	4
Non-pulmonary .. ..	..	..	3	1	0	1

There is no evidence of excessive incidence or mortality.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The arrangement has continued whereby this treatment is carried out by General Practitioners throughout the area, either at their own surgeries or at the home of the patient. In addition refresher doses have been given to new entrants, at schools, by their own doctors in the northern part of the area. The County Council as the Child Welfare Authority is responsible for the treatment of the under fives and your Council is responsible for the over fives. During the year 172 children under five and 22 over five were immunised. 250 children over five received refresher doses in order to stimulate a waning immunity from previous inoculation. The majority of these latter children were new school entrants.

It is estimated that only about 50% of children born within the previous 12 months were immunised during the year, a disappointing figure which is not sufficient to maintain the previous high rate in your area. Of the children under 14 68% have at one time or another received immunisation treatment.

DIPHTHERIA.

During the year two cases of diphtheria were notified, neither of these proved to be a genuine case. This satisfactory result can be attributed in very large measure to the excellent response to the immunisation campaign in the past.

POLIOMYELITIS OUTBREAK.

During the second half of 1947 a disastrous epidemic of poliomyelitis struck the country as a whole. Eleven confirmed cases were notified in your district, and one man died as a result of respiratory paralysis. Cases received treatment either at Treloar Hospital, Alton, Salisbury Isolation Hospital or Salisbury Infirmary.

The first case to be notified occurred on the 2nd of August in Fordingbridge. Subsequent cases occurred on August 24th in Fordingbridge, September 15th Fordingbridge, September 16th Holmsley South, September 23rd Ringwood, September 29th Hurn, October 21st Holmsley South, October 31st Middle Bockhampton, November 5th Fordingbridge, November 27th Woodgreen, December 11th Burgate. In only two instances, where a mother and daughter were affected, was any connexion between cases demonstrated. From the latter part of October, the intricate forms of the Poliomyelitis statistical survey were completed for each case, and it is hoped that this survey, which was country wide, will help to throw more light on the epidemiology of this rather obscure disease.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supply of the major part of the district is drawn from the mains of the West Hampshire Water Company. The Company in turn take their water from the River Avon at Christchurch where it is treated by slow sand filtration and chloramination. In general the supply from this source has been satisfactory in quality and in quantity. A part of the northern area however, situated on high land and to which the company's main has only recently been extended, could not be adequately supplied at times of maximum consumption and a new pumping main was laid from the works at Christchurch to the booster at Gorley and to the Ringwood reservoir with a view to improving this supply.

Extensions of the Company's main were continued during the year in the villages of Damerham, Martin and Woodgreen. Plans are on foot to extend the supply to Breamore and beyond.

The Water Company continued to transport water to residents in the Linwood area, where wells generally remained dry.

A number of outlying areas in the extreme north west and some isolated farms and cottages remain dependant on wells and springs.

During the year 123 samples were collected from domestic premises, 80 of these were polluted and 7 suspicious. Statutory

Notices were served in connexion with 79 premises.

The Water Company's record of premises supplied with main water is as follows:—

<i>Area</i>	<i>Houses supplied direct</i>	<i>Approx. population supplied</i>
Burton	227	1022
Winkton	49	221
Sopley	48	216
Avon and Ripley	97	437
Bransgore	306	1377
Burley	353	1609
Ringwood	2184	9828
Fordingbridge	925	4163
Rockbourne	56	252
Whitsbury	43	244

Two public standpipes are erected in Thorny Hill Compound. The numbers supplied vary within wide limits at different seasons of the year.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Ringwood Sewage Works have continued to work efficiently throughout the year. At this plant the crude effluent, after sedimentation, is used for land treatment and excellent crops are grown at the Sewage Farm. The sludge, after drying, is also used as manure. The plant is now working at its maximum capacity and it will be necessary in the near future to increase the number of settlement tanks, and the area of ground available for irrigation.

Fordingbridge, which has been provided with main water since 1935 is still without modern sanitation. It is now 14 years since my predecessor first pressed for a water carriage system. A Public Enquiry into the Council's proposed scheme was held by an Inspector from the Ministry of Health in Fordingbridge on 28th October, 1947, but the decision of the Minister has not yet been made known. A favourable decision seems likely but in view of present building and labour difficulties it may well be some time before this very necessary, and long overdue, amenity becomes available for the town.

In the meantime the bulk of the sewage in the town is disposed of in buckets, and a night soil collection is made by the Hampshire Cleansing Company.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

There are 370 Milk producing premises registered with the Council. Throughout the war years, in view of the difficulties in obtaining labour and raw materials, emphasis was rightly laid on the production of clean milks by improvements in the methods of handling, rather than on the structural condutions of the premises in

which the milk was produced. The result is that there now exists in the area a very large number of unfit farms. In the main the small producer frequently a tenant farmer is at fault but not all large producers are free from stricture. Farmers have for so long been allowed to produce milk under unsatisfactory conditions that there is a tendency among them to emphasise that there have been few complaints of the keeping qualities of their milks, and to infer that any improvements requested are unnecessary and vexatious.

The fact that the County Council has only seen fit to issue 71 Accredited and 32 Tuberculin Tested Licences up to the end of December 1947 is some indication of the low standards in this large milk producing area. The time has come to undertake a drive to remedy this unsatisfactory state of affairs. I am instituting a survey, Parish by Parish, and if informal action does not succeed, then full statutory action under the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders will be requested in all cases where it is indicated. Universal pasteurisation is more than ever necessary when it is permissible to market milk produced under such conditions.

HOUSING.

Housing remains here, as elsewhere, one of the greatest problems of the Council. The shortage of suitable accommodation has been stated to be one of the greatest single causes of misery in this country at the present time. The number of applicants on the Council's waiting list on 31st December 1947 was 678 and against this 45 houses were completed by private enterprise and 47 by the Council during the year. In addition a number of ex-Service huts were taken over and converted to make reasonable temporary accommodation. The majority of hutted sites are situated in the heart of the country, not well provided with communications, and occupied by people who are by inclination town dwellers. In addition the huts are already over age so that the problem of rehousing the occupants remains constantly with us. The accommodation can never be regarded as satisfactory and I foresee a legacy of ill-health if the people are permitted indefinitely to inhabit such dwellings.

Dwellings administered by the Council at 31.12.47:—

Permanent houses	..	..	..	178
Prefabs	..	..	..	50
Requisitioned houses	..	..	..	45
Huts under requisition	..	..	..	131

(90 converted and occupied)

HOUSING ACT INSPECTIONS.

1. *Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:—*

Total No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	..	..	..	..	72
No. of inspections made for the purpose	..	..	..	..	129
(a) No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	..	..	..	..	2

(b) No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under (a) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation)	60
2. <i>Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices:—</i>	
No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ..	24
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—</i>	
<i>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—</i>	
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	nil
<i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—</i>	
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil
<i>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—</i>	
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	nil
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted	1

Inspections of dwelling houses under the Housing Consolidated Regulations are still impossible, but inspections of houses are made upon receipt of complaints and where defects are discovered notices are served for necessary remedial works.

THORNEY HILL COMPOUND.

My predecessor has very frequently in the past described the appalling conditions under which the inhabitants of this Compound exist. I associate myself with everything that he has said and I am confident that such conditions will be perpetuated for as long as they are permitted. In these days of regimentation compulsion might, in this instance, be usefully employed to move the gypsies into sub-standard housing accommodation as a first move in educating them up to living as normal members of a civilised community. As it is, quite a number have at their own wish taken up residence in converted Nissen Huts on Council sites and without exception express their satisfaction at the improvement in their conditions.

SCHOOLS.

There are 18 County Council Schools throughout the area, of which the majority are housed in old outmoded buildings which will eventually have to be re-built. A high proportion, particularly in the centres of population, are overcrowded and in a number of cases temporary buildings, or hired accommodation outside the school are used in an endeavour to cope with the excess children. The majority of schools, have now been provided with facilities for mid-day meals, either cooked on the spot or brought in insulated containers from other School kitchens. The six schools where no provision has yet been made are small rural Schools where the need is no less great. They will eventually be dealt with. One-third of a pint of milk daily is available free to all children.

SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTION.

School Medical Inspections are conducted by the staff of the County Medical Officer. Children are inspected as new entrants, periodically throughout their school life, and in the last year of their attendance at School. Any child found to have a defect is noted as a "special," and is examined more frequently. Inspections take place on the School premises and parents are encouraged to be present. Visual and speech defects, ear, nose, and throat disease, and orthopaedic conditions are referred, with the consent of the family doctors, to the County Specialists for advice and treatment. Other cases requiring treatment are advised to consult their family doctor.

In addition the Health Visitor makes periodic inspections of the children for the purpose of ensuring cleanliness and freedom from infectious conditions. Children found to be infested with head lice are referred to their parents for treatment in the first instance, but if this is not successful they may be summoned to a cleansing centre for compulsory cleansing.

CHILD WELFARE.

The County Council is the Child Welfare Authority and Child Welfare Clinics are held at Ringwood, Fordingbridge, Woodgreen, Burley and Holmsley. In addition a number of mothers in the Southern part of the area attend the Child Welfare Clinic in Christchurch. At the Clinics, children are accurately weighed and their progress noted. Advice is given on diet, hygiene and infant management by the Medical Officer and the Health Visitor in attendance. Defects are noted early and with the consent of the family doctor the services of the County Specialists are available for advice, and treatment of those conditions dealt with by the School Medical Service. No treatment is carried out at the Clinics, children being referred to their own doctors where necessary. Breast feeding is encouraged to the utmost but where this proves impossible certain brands of proprietary dried milks are available at reduced prices, and the Government Vitamins are also distributed.

The conduct of the several clinics would be impossible without the devoted help of the voluntary workers, and to these ladies I should like to express our grateful thanks.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The County Council is the responsible authority for the control and treatment of Venereal Disease. Clinics serving this area are held at the Royal Victoria and West Hants Hospital and at the Salisbury General Infirmary.

SLAUGHTER HOUSE.

The one slaughter house at present in use in your area was originally constructed for a private butcher and for that purpose

was no doubt satisfactory. It is now used by the Ministry of Food as a central slaughter house and work goes on most days. For this purpose it is entirely unsuitable. In the first place it is too small for the volume of work, approximately 3,000 animals were slaughtered there in 1947, the premises are old, structurally unsuitable and difficult to keep clean, they are in close proximity to houses, and slaughtering takes place, certainly within the hearing and often within sight, of the next victim. The buildings are so congested that meat inspection cannot take place while slaughtering is going on, and your inspectors have often to spend their evenings doing this part of their work. Strong representation should be made to the Ministry of Food to provide suitable premises on the outskirts of the town.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Thorough inspection of all carcasses is carried out by your inspectors at the slaughter house as a result of which some 20,000 lbs. of diseased and unfit meat was prevented from reaching consumers.

WATERCRESS.

In the latter part of the year considerable attention was given to the manner in which watercress is cultivated throughout the area. Numerous visits were paid to the beds at Damerham, Breamore, Burgate, Gorley and Ringwood. 13 samples of water were taken and submitted for analysis. By domestic water standards one sample was considered satisfactory, six suspicious, and six unsatisfactory.

Continual efforts were made to have sources of pollution eliminated and to encourage growers to maintain their beds in a satisfactory and hygienic condition. In at least one set of beds no such urging was necessary as they are constantly maintained in such an excellent fashion as to be a model for other growers.

HURN AIRPORT.

During the year a variable number of aircraft used this airfield, principally those which for weather or other reasons were unable to land at Heath Row or Northolt. Aircraft are boarded on arrival by Customs Officers who receive, on behalf of the Airport Medical Officer, the Aircraft declaration of health. If this is in order passengers are permitted to land and are conducted to the Medical Inspection room where they are interviewed and, if necessary medically examined by a Medical Inspector of Aliens. If the Declaration of Health is not satisfactory the aircraft is detained and may be sent to a quarantine area. Passengers are not allowed to land until the craft has been visited by the Airport Medical Officer. Passengers present a personal declaration of health in which they detail their movements in the fourteen days prior to arrival, and give an account of their vaccination and inoculation

history. They are given an official card advising them to seek medical advice if taken ill within 21 days of arrival, and a post card in order that they may subsequently notify the Airport Health Officer of the address to which they are proceeding, if they cannot give this information before leaving the Airport. The Airport Medical Officer notifies the Medical Officer of Health of the area to which each individual passenger is proceeding in the event of there being the slightest possibility of disease being imported, for example if passengers should come from an area where Smallpox is prevalent. The Medical Officer of Health of the receiving area will keep such passengers under surveillance until the danger is over.

The bulk of this work is performed by Dr. A. S. Peffers, the B.O.A.C. Medical Officer, but when he is not available Dr. W. D. Higson officiates. After his retiral Dr. Morrell was appointed an additional Inspector and is available if required.

At an international airport of this kind constant vigilance is necessary to ensure that infectious disease is not imported from abroad, with particular emphasis on the five diseases of the International Sanitary Convention for Aerial Navigation, i.e. Smallpox, Plague, Cholera, Typhus and Yellow Fever. In May a suspected case of Smallpox, an employee of B.O.A.C., was detained at Hurn on his arrival from his home in Birmingham. He was removed to the Smallpox Hospital at Winchester. All authorities concerned were notified and necessary action taken but the case later proved to be Chicken Pox. The presence of Cholera in Egypt during the last four months of the year entailed additional precautions. The Medical Officers of Health of all areas to which passengers from Egypt were proceeding were informed, in order that they could keep such arrivals under surveillance until the expiry of the incubation period.

ARRIVALS, 1947.

No. of aircraft	..	..	..	209
No. of crew	..	..	..	1224
No. of British passengers	..	..	..	1006
No. of Aliens	..	..	..	691

GENERAL REMARKS.

The health of the area has been satisfactory throughout the year and there has been no abnormal incidence of infectious disease.

The birth rate is the highest ever recorded.

Housing remains an acute problem which can only be solved by an increasing rate of new construction, both private and Council. The use of ex-Service huts is a very temporary, and on the whole, unsatisfactory expedient.

The condition of Milk and Dairies premises throughout the area cannot be regarded with satisfaction and strong measures are necessary to raise the present low standards.

It is apparent from the figures given by the Sanitary Inspector that housing and other duties are occupying an undue proportion of the work of his department, and that the public health side of the work is to some extent having to take second place. Since the departure in February of the additional Sanitary Inspector, who has not yet been replaced, the Rural Housing Survey has been brought to a standstill, and Food premises are not receiving the constant supervision without which abuses may and do creep in. I advise replacement of this officer in order to catch up with the accumulated arrears of the war years, and to maintain the existing work at its present high level.

In conclusion I would wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Council for their kindness and consideration to me as a newcomer, Dr. Morrell for much helpful guidance and advice, and the Senior Sanitary Inspector and his Staff for their technical advice, their constant willingness to help, and their unlimited patience with my unending enquiries.

D. J. N. McNAB,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1948.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1947 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE.

Part I of the Act.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Reg'ter</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	36	16	Nil	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority... ..	56	20	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	92	36	2	Nil

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..					
Overcrowding (S.2) ..					
Unreasonable temp. (S.3)					
Inad. ventilation (S.4) ..					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient		1			
(b) unsuitable or defective ..	2	2			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..					
TOTAL	2	3			

Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>Section 110</i>			<i>Section 111</i>		
	<i>No. of out-workers in Aug. list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
Wearing apparel (Making etc.) ..	33	—	—	—	—	—

*Public Offices,
Ringwood.
August, 1948.*

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report as your Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, dealing briefly with work carried out during the year 1947.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Water Supplies	..	..	..	336
Shops Act	..	..	..	35
Nuisances and Complaints	..	..	..	724
Milk and Dairies	..	..	..	174
Factories Act	..	..	..	36
Meat and Food	..	..	..	255
Knackers Yard	..	..	..	3
Housing	..	..	..	165
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	100
Food Premises	..	..	..	62
Services administered by Council	..	..	..	502
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	117
Petroleum and Carbide Storage Premises	..	..	..	72
Requisitioned Premises	..	..	..	663
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	20
Building Licences	..	..	..	1370
Small Dwelling Licences	..	..	..	395
Housing Estates	..	..	..	601
Building Byelaws	..	..	..	853
Total	..	..	..	6125

COMPLAINTS.

159 complaints of nuisances were received during the year, involving a total of 724 visits and inspections—details are as follows:—

<i>Nature of Nuisance.</i>	<i>Complaints Received</i>	<i>Number of Visits</i>
Rats	42	163
Cesspools and Drains	23	105
Animals	1	3
Offensive Smells	6	15
Bugs, fleas and flies	4	20
Insanitary condition of dwelling houses	59	294
Water Supply	6	11
Miscellaneous	18	113

Where a nuisance or defect was found to exist, an informal notice was served upon the person responsible, a procedure which is generally effective. In only one instance was Statutory action necessary to obtain the execution of remedial works.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Number of Insections made	..	336
Number of samples collected	..	136
Number of samples reported polluted		86
Number of Statutory Notices served	..	79
Houses connected to main supply as a result of such notices	.. ..	49
Houses provided with wholesome supplies other than mains as a result of such notices	.. ..	8

SANITATION.

RINGWOOD SEWERAGE.

The Bickerley and Moortown Pumping Stations have been well maintained during the year and disposal at the Sewage Works has been satisfactory.

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND FORDINGBRIDGE NIGHT-SOIL COLLECTIONS.

Collections throughout the district carried out by the Council's Contractors, Messrs. Manley and Company, were inefficiently executed and the two refuse dumps became sites of uncontrolled tipping with resultant nuisances. The Council accordingly terminated their contract with Messrs. Manleys and themselves took over mechanised refuse and salvage collections on the 1st October; a separate contract was entered into with the Hampshire Cleansing Service for Fordingbridge Night-Soil Collections.

The collections are under my control and are functioning satisfactorily; controlled tipping is carried out at the Refuse Dumps situate at Sandleheath and Ashley where all precautions are taken to prevent nuisances from smells, rats and flies.

COMPOST SCHEME.

During the year I commenced a scheme of composting for the Fordingbridge Night-Soil Collections; the night-soil is conveyed to the Ringwood Sewage Disposal Works where it is efficiently composted and sold to farmers, thus converting it into the valuable humus needed for food production; the scheme has proved to be revenue producing. Experiments are now in progress for composting sludge at these works.

I am indebted to the late Sir Albert Howard and to Dr. Aubrey Westlake for their invaluable help in connection with these schemes.

HOUSING.

The Additional Sanitary Inspector appointed for the purpose of the Rural Housing Survey terminated his appointment during the year and it was found impossible to fill the vacancy owing to the absence of housing accommodation. All available staff was concentrated on essential housing work, i.e. schemes for the immediate provision of temporary housing accommodation and as a result the Housing Survey was brought to a standstill.

The total number of houses surveyed to date remains at 1653 categorised as follows:—

Category 1	..	..	..	209
Category 2	..	..	..	348
Category 3	..	..	..	870
Category 4	..	..	..	17
Category 5	..	..	..	209

Routine house-to-house inspections were impossible, but inspections carried out on receipt of complaints resulted in the service of 60 Informal Notices and 2 Statutory Notices.

Temporary housing accommodation has again produced much additional work; many more huts on disused airfields were taken over by the Council and comprehensive conversion schemes carried out. 88 family units of accommodation were provided during the year by the conversion of huts and a total of 663 inspections were made in connection with surveys, preparations of schemes, supervising conversion works and maintenance.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Routine inspections were continued throughout the year of all animals slaughtered at the Ministry of Food Slaughter House; this involves detailed examinations of carcasses and offal and the work can only be carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during evenings, on occasions they are engaged on this until a very late hour.

Carcases Inspected at Ringwood Slaughter House.

Cattle	..	..	..	766
Calves	..	..	..	917
Sheep and Lambs	..	..	..	1096
Pigs	..	..	..	138

The following table shows the amount of meat condemned at the Slaughter House as unfit for human consumption (totalling 20,692 lbs.) and in addition, foodstuffs examined at food shops, found to be unfit and voluntarily surrendered.

Weight in lbs. of carcasses and offal condemned in 1947.

Tuberculosis	..	..	14061
Emaciation	..	..	321
Angiomatosis	..	..	611
Cirrhosis	..	..	325

Distomatosis	3845
Strongylosis	6
Bruised	312
Fatty Infiltration	93
Abscess	197
Mammitis	27
Mauled by Dog	32
Purulent Inflammation	40
Septic Mastitis	680
Pyæmia	68
Acute Fever	64
Bone Taint	100
Endocarditis	4
Decomposition	8
Pericarditis	13
Hydatid Cysts	23
Growth	1
Calloused	21
Melanosis	26
Pneumonia	18
Caseous Lymphadenitis	96
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20692	

Other Foods.

62 tins various foodstuffs including tinned meat, vegetables, soups, fish, milk and fruit.

1431 lbs. meat including ox tongue, canned sausage meat, bacon, corned beef and corned mutton.

2747 bottles and jars including pickles, fruit, jam and sauce.

52½ stone fish	431 lbs. Potatoes
17 lbs. Shredded Wheat	4 cwts. Sausage Rusk
55 lbs. Cheese	1 cwt. Bread Rusk
63 lbs. Butter	8 lbs. Flour

MILK AND DAIRIES.

No. of Wholesale/Retail Producers on Register ..	370
No. of Retail Purveyors of Milk on Register other than Cowkeepers	9
Inspections made	174
Informal Notices Served	31
<i>Applications for registration received during year</i>	
Wholesale/Retail Producers	33
<i>Total number of licences granted by the County Council to producers in this district up to 31st December, 1947</i>	
(a) Accredited	71
(b) Tuberculin Tested	32

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Under the provisions of this Act, 14 licences were issued to Slaughtermen.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

	<i>Food Shops</i>	<i>Bake- houses</i>	<i>Restaurant Kitchens</i>	<i>Ice-Cream Premises</i>	<i>Preserved Food Premises</i>
Number on Register	135	18	14	15	29
Inspections made	6	5	14	36	1

18 samples of Ice Cream were collected during the year for bacteriological examination and methylene blue test.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Number on Register	..	..	..	56
Inspections made	..	..	..	117

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM AND CARBIDE.

Number of Premises on Register	..	52
Inspections made	..	72

SHOPS ACT.

Number on Register	..	..	..	262
Inspections made	..	..	..	35
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	2
Certificates of Exemption issued	..	..	..	7

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Inspections made	..	..	..	100
Premises disinfected	..	..	..	15
Library Books destroyed	..	..	..	10

FACTORIES ACT.

Number in Register	..	..	..	92
Inspections made	..	..	..	36

BUILDING BYELAWS.

Inspections of foundations	..	..	83
Inspections of damp-proof courses	..	..	74
No. of water tests applied	..	..	342
Inspections of connections to sewers	..	..	19
Inspections of completed works	..	..	164
Miscellaneous inspections	..	..	171
Contraventions of Building Byelaws	..	..	45
No. of notices served	..	..	19
No. of notices complied with	..	..	15
No. of plans received	..	..	397
No. of plans approved	..	..	337
No. of plans rejected	..	..	60
No. of premises connected to sewer	..	..	67

HOUSING ESTATES.

No. of visits made in connection with maintenance works:—

Council Houses	..	..	..	296
Requisitioned Premises	..	..	..	220
Pre-fabs.	..	..	..	85

The maintenance of these extremely scattered estates has become increasingly difficult; at the end of 1945 I was responsible for 141 houses; by the end of 1947 this figure had risen to a total of 363 occupied dwellings made up as follows:—

Permanent Houses	..	..	..	178
Pre-fabs.	..	..	..	50
Requisitioned Houses	..	..	..	45
Converted Huts	..	..	..	90

BUILDING LICENCES.

No. of Repair Licence Applications received	..	..	1493
No. of Repair Licence Applications approved	..	..	1064
No. of Repair Licence Applications refused	..	..	227
Total Value of Repair Licences issued	..	£85,302	7s. 6d.
Total No. of inspections and visits made for the purpose	..	..	1370

SMALL DWELLING LICENCES.

No. of Small Dwelling Licence Applications received	..	45
No. of Small Dwelling Licence Applications approved	..	13
No. of Small Dwelling Licence Applications refused	..	31
Total Value of Small Dwelling Licences issued	..	£16,855 0s. 0d.
Total No. of inspections and visits made for the purpose	..	395

CONCLUSION.

It will be seen that the department now embraces a much larger field resulting in additional duties devolving upon the members of my staff; my thanks are due to them for the efficient manner in which they have dealt with their increased duties and for their loyal support.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RONALD A. UPSTONE.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

